



HARPER'S FERRY FROM MARYLAND HEIGHTS.

OLD JOHN BROWN.

The Story of the Famous Raid at Harper's Ferry.

A FOOLHARDY ATTEMPT.

It Was the Result of Thirty Years of Planning—No One Believed It Would Succeed, but Brown—What Influence It Had Upon the Civil War So Soon Followed.

Special Correspondence of The Evening Star.

HARPER'S FERRY, Md., June 24, 1893.

HIS JOHN BROWN'S town. The little hamlet situated in the angle formed by the junction of the Potomac and the Shenandoah rivers is not without an interesting history of its own, aside from the fact that the land it occupies was originally included in that famous grant made to old Lord Fairfax, intended to include all the territory not held by prior title lying in the "Northern Neck," which, in other words, meant all the lands situated between the Rappahannock and the Potomac rivers. This territory was given to the Fairfax family, and the tradition goes that he wrote a large portion of his "Notes on Virginia" while seated upon a cliff overlooking the Shenandoah river, which stone bears the name of "Jefferson's rock" till this day. The view from this point looking eastwardly to where the two rivers with their united volumes break their way through the mighty walls of the Blue Ridge is one of the grandest on the continent, and it is not surprising that the sight would amply repay the trouble of a voyage across the Atlantic ocean.

The place was a center of considerable strategic importance during the war between the states, being the key to the celebrated "rally" of Virginia. It was captured and recaptured several times by the opposing forces.

JOHN BROWN'S ADVENT.

But it is emphatically John Brown's town, and will be through all future history.

"John Brown's raid" is a monolith in the grave, and the famous "rally" of October, 1859, and the tragic sequel enacted forty days later at the neighboring county seat of Charles town, overshadow all else of its history or tradition.

What did he do, and why?

For what was he hanged on December 2, 1859?

How many intelligent readers of the present day could state what particular crime that old man and his followers were charged with?

The story runs thus: On the 24th of July, 1859, an old man of austere mien and venerable appearance made his advent at the little village of Sandy Hook, on the Maryland side of the Potomac river, and after a short stay in the town of Harper's Ferry, he was accompanied by a small party of men to the site of the engine house, where he was to be hanged.

That was his last mistake. He was not within the trap and the jaws were closed. There was no thought of surrender. But there immediately pierced the walls of the engine house with loopholes, from which they fired upon every armed man who came within their range. The first shot was fired by George Turner and Fountain Beckham, two of the volunteers who were killed. All day the fight was kept up. During the night of the 17th the siege of the engine house continued.

The most horrible particulars of that bloody day are detailed by the night of the 18th, the death of Fountain Beckham enraged the citizens that they at once set upon one of the invaders whom they had captured and were holding as a prisoner. The prisoner was taken to the bridge and shot him to death. His body fell into the river, where it was visible for days after the awful tragedy. Another one of the invaders was killed. The third day of the siege was the 19th, and the invaders were still in the town. He was seen by the citizens, and when they saw his hands in token of surrender, and three assailants thereupon waded out to where he was lying and deliberately shot him to death.

On the 20th of the month, the 17th, Col. Robert E. Lee of the United States army, and who was afterward the Confederate general, arrived from Washington with a force of soldiers, and the invaders were driven out of the town. The invaders were driven out of the town, and the invaders were driven out of the town.

After stopping a short time at Sandy Hook, which lies upon the eastern side of the mountain known as Maryland Heights, they removed to a place known as the "Kennedy Farm," some four or five miles away upon the opposite side of the mountain. They made a favorable impression upon all those with whom they came in contact, and there is no evidence that any one in the neighborhood ever suspected them of being other than they represented themselves. This is the most remarkable fact when we consider that during the course of the summer their numbers were augmented to about twenty, and that they were engaged in a conspiracy of modern times.

THE VENERABLE "ISAAC SMITH."

For the venerable "Isaac Smith," with his flowing beard, his simple and childlike manner, and his stern piety, was none other than old "Isaac Smith," the man of Kansas, who had been a member of the anti-slavery cause for many years.

Such a feat would be considered a miracle by the day of the telegraph and the illustrated newspaper press. But they took every precaution to guard their secret. In all their correspondence from the Kennedy farm Brown used the name of Smith, even signing that name to his letters to his family at North Elba, in New York state. As a further precaution, the letters were mailed and received through the post office at Chambersburg, Pa. Letters to him were addressed to "E. Smith & Sons," under cover to John Smith of that town.

Here also he caused to be sent the 200 Sharps' rifles and the like number of Colt's revolvers, which he had arranged to secure through the agency of his Massachusetts friend, a thousand "pikes" manufactured for him by a blacksmith in Collinsville, Conn., were also shipped to the same place, during the course of the summer, were transported to the Kennedy farm and were stored at the latter place, without exciting notice from the easy-going Maryland neighbors.

What was the object of these men? They intended to establish a permanent base of operations for the anti-slavery cause. They intended to establish a permanent base of operations for the anti-slavery cause.

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AN EXPRESS IDYLL.

From Murray's Magazine.

CENE, YORK STATION. Time, 8 p.m.

The south express, known commonly as "The Flying Scotchman," is at the platform and on the point of starting.

He has taken his seat and is snugly ensconced in the far end of a first-class compartment. He is straight from the moors—the "ditto," deerstalker cap, gun case in rack, show that a gentleman, young, well born, well-do—do as the Bible or at least the New Testament. That teaches me the virtues, and altogether prosperous, self-satisfied, and even so to them. It teaches me further to remember that he is in bonds, as bound with me. I am yet too young to understand that God is any respecter of persons. I believe that he has interfered as I have done—as I have allowed myself to be interfered with. The least of his despised poor, was not wrong but right. Now, if it is deemed necessary that I should atone for my interference with the ends of justice and the blood of my children and with the blood of millions in this slave country whose rights are as sacred as those of the white man, I submit; so let it be done.

THE EXECUTION.

The third act of the tragedy swiftly followed. No appeal was prayed to the supreme court of the state, notwithstanding it is and has long been the practice to take such appeal in all capital cases. The conclusion foregone, as in this case. It is done as a mere act of humanity in the prisoner's behalf. It is probable that in this case the prisoner would have been hanged without appeal. The prisoner was taken to the gallows. The prisoner was taken to the gallows. The prisoner was taken to the gallows.

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REVENGE OF FATE.

A Proof That Men Who Write Bad Verses Always Come to a Bad End.

From the Detroit Free Press.

"Here is a letter from a friend of mine in Kansas," said a guest at a Detroit hotel the other evening, as he held the epistle in his hand, "and it relates to a very serious circumstance. Without the letter here to back me up I should not have dared to tell you the story."

He was asked to drive ahead, and after another glance at the letter he continued:

"From my earliest recollection I love the pater of rain drops on the roof at night. Many and many a night I have rubbed myself with it. I might keep it for a long time, but I have not. Five years ago I built me a house in a certain town in Kansas. It cost me \$600 extra to get things so arranged that I could see the rain drops patter as I lay in my bed. For two weeks before I moved in it rained every night, so that in that house three years, and what do you suppose happened, or, rather, didn't happen?"

"It burned down and there was no insurance," answered, at once, the crowd.

"No, sir," said the guest, "not a single night in all those three years, unless I happened to be away from home. If there were showers they'd pass away before I could get to bed. I had to be away it would pour.